



Massachusetts National Guard

Public Affairs

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

Media Advisory

POINT OF CONTACT:
Phone: 508-233-6562

Lt. Col. James Sahady
E-mail: james.sahady@us.army.mil

Sept. 3, 2011

Massachusetts National Guard Continues to Support Hurricane Irene Relief Efforts

MILFORD – Massachusetts National Guard members are still continuing relief efforts today, clearing debris and delivering water to communities in Western Massachusetts.

Soldiers and Airmen have been on state active duty performing missions since August 26, providing relief to areas affected by the hurricane. More than 100 Guardsmen continue to work to relieve the pressure associated with the aftermath of the storm in Charlemont and Colrain.

Working in conjunction with emergency responders, Massachusetts National Guard members have completed more than 50 missions, 75 welfare checks, 80 rapid assessments, established 25 traffic control points, delivered more than 120 pallets of water, cleared nearly 100 downed trees and cleared more than 5-miles of road to make the area accessible for supplies and public safety personnel.

The Massachusetts National Guard is currently providing critical services in the much needed emergency assistance to Massachusetts communities along the Mohawk Trail.

Coordination between the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, state, local police and civil authorities resulted in a joint strategy that immediately provided damage assessment, clearing debris for route access to primary and secondary roads that provided safety and security to citizens.

"We continue to be impressed by the resiliency and strength of the Mohawk Trail communities damaged by Hurricane Irene. Massachusetts National Guardsmen are proud to serve the people of these towns as they work to regain normalcy. We're also grateful for the hospitality shown toward our Soldiers and Airmen and we've been deeply touched by many small gestures of generosity. We'll remain on guard until these towns are back on their feet," said Brig. Gen. Paul Greg Smith, Assistant Adjutant General of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

On December 13, 1636, more than 374 years ago, Patriots from Massachusetts formed together as the Massachusetts National Guard. Today, Citizen-Soldiers continue to answer the Commonwealth's call to render aid and provide support during emergencies at home, or conflicts abroad.